DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 438 554 CS 217 010

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TITLE An Alphabet for English-IV.
PUB DATE 2000-02-25
NOTE 15p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Alphabets; Elementary Education; Phonetics; Spelling; *Written Language

ABSTRACT

The current spelling of words in English is so lacking in consistency that the time is ripe for the adoption of an alphabet that embodies some semblance of phonetics. This paper proposes a new alphabet for English that uses the English (Roman) letters as elements so that current type and typewriters can still be used. Furthermore, allowance is made to distinguish the great number of homonyms that occur in the English language. The new alphabet is presented in four stages, starting with an Initial Teaching Alphabet, then adding successively alternate vowels, consonant modifications, and finally special letter strings. (Author/RS)

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ED 438 554

AN ALPHABET FOR ENGLISH-IV

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ABSTRACT

The current spelling of words in English is so lacking in consistency that the time is ripe for the adaption of an alphabet that embodies some semblance of phonetics. The present study was undertaken with this in mind. A new alphabet for English is proposed that uses the English (Roman) letters as elements so that current type and typewriters can still be used. Furthermore and, perhaps more important, allowance is made to distinguish the great number of homonyms that occur in the English language.

The new alphabet is presented in four stages, starting with an Initial Teaching Alphabet, then adding successively alternate vowels, consonant modifications, and finally special letter strings.

February 25, 2000

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INTRODUCTION

English is a great language, not perfect, but great. While its grammatical structure lends itself to the expression of subtle thoughts, its spelling is an archaic remnant of its multifaceted historical development. This paper is concerned with a systematic revision of the spelling of the words in the English language and this spelling revision is what is being called a "new alphabet."

Alphabets exist to provide written expression for the spoken words of a given language and phonetic alphabets exist to provide a precise notation for the pronunciation of the words of that language. In languages such as Italian, Spanish, and German, words are pronounced more or less as they are spelled although the rules may vary with the language. However, English is not such a language possibly due to an attempt to distinguish the many homonyms that occur in English.

In a restrictive sense a *homonym* refers to words that have the same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings; for example, *can* can mean either "to be able" or "a container." For present purposes we use the more general definition of *homonyms* that also includes *homographs* (words with the same spelling but different pronunciation) as well as *homophones* (words with the same pronunciation but different spelling).

Phonetic alphabets certainly are valuable since they provide one sound for each symbol and one symbol for each sound. However, they cannot distinguish many homonyms.

Consider the following pairs of homographs

"use(noun) and use(verb)" and "bow(noun) and bow(verb)"

that are spelled the same but pronounced differently. Such peculiarities of spelling and pronunciation are counterproductive. Furthermore, homophones such as

"to, too, two" and "for, fore, four"

might reasonably be expected to be spelled differently.

Consequently, we are proposing an alphabet that provides basically one sound for a given spelling to facilitate pronunciation, but allows for more than one spelling for a given sound to permit homonyms to be distinguished graphically.

Consider a phonetic alphabet such as Shaw's [1]. This alphabet is so precise that in many cases one would have to change the spelling to allow for regional variations in pronunciation. In an everyday alphabet

we prefer one that contains sufficient flexibility (or looseness) so that regional differences can be accommodated without changing the spelling. The Shavian alphabet is difficult exemplify here since it uses characters that are not on standard type or typewriters. Instead we consider it a desirable feature to use letters and letter pairs or strings that can be written using standard type and typewriters.

The Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA) [2], which also uses non-standard characters, distinguishes between the vowel sounds in the words *due* and *doom*. Since most phonetic alphabets including Shaw's do not make such a distinction, neither do we. On the other hand many phonetic alphabets including Shaw's and the ITA [2] distinguish between "w" and "wh," while we do not. If a more precise pronunciation is required, then a phonetic alphabet such as [3] can be used for this purpose.

THE NEW ALPHABET

The new alphabet is essentially phonetic and by *essentially* we mean that while some few irregularities are permitted, the reader is given a really helpful guide to pronunciation. Second, with regard to pronunciation one spelling has essentially one pronunciation, but one pronunciation may have more than one spelling to allow for possible differentiation of homonyms. Third, English (or Roman) letters are used as elements, so that current type and typewriters can still be used. Fourth, of the various possibilities we have chosen those that preserve current spellings as much as consistently feasible. We shall discuss these features as they arise.

We introduce the following notation for convenience:

1. The double colon "::" is used to mean "as in" where examples of pronunciation follow;
2. The double semicolon ";;" is used to indicate that examples of transliterations from the current spelling to the new spelling follow; and
3. Transliterations are indicated by "->" as in

   current-spelling -> new-spelling.

The new alphabet is presented in four stages:

Stage 1: A new Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA);

Stage 2: Stage 1 with alternate vowels added to accommodate homonyms;

Stage 3: Stage 2 with consonents modified to accommodate current usage as much as consistently feasible;
Stage 4: Stage 3 with special commonly used letter strings.
We describe each of these stages in more detail in turn.

STAGE 1: AN INITIAL TEACHING ALPHABET

Basic Vowels

a) Basic Single Vowels:

There are many ways of defining *single* vowels; however, the following seems most natural. Note that we have included both "y" and "w" as vowels as well as consonents.

(i) Short Vowels:

e :: **e**nd, b**e**d, l**e**t;

i :: **i**f, **i**n, **i**s, **i**t ;; women -> wimen;

y :: …l**y**, cit**y** ;; we -> wy, reneg -> ryneg, pique -> pyk;

(ii) Long Vowels:

a :: **a**n, **a**s, **a**t;

o :: **o**f, **o**n, g**o**t ;; of -> ov, gone -> gon;

u :: **u**p, b**u**t, **u**n… ;; done -> dun;

w :: c**w**m, f**oo**d ;; you ->yw, food ->fwd, woo -> ww.

b) Certain Basic Vowel Diphthongs:

While in the English alphabet (and in Stage 3 of the present new alphabet, but not necessarily in an initial teaching alphabet) the sound of a consonant may change depending on whether it is followed by a short or long vowel. On the other hand, we seek to avoid having the sound of a vowel change when followed by a consonant that is in turn followed an "e". Thus, let

C = a general consonant and

V = a general vowel.

Then for many words we can use the transliteration

VCe -> VeC

to define systematically certain basic long vowel diphthongs. Thus, we can specify the vowel diphthongs of the form "Ve" as the following:

ae :: al**e**, at**e** ;; ale -> ael, ate -> aet;

ee = y :: imped**e**, delet**e** ;; impede -> impeed, delete -> dyleet;

ie :: bit**e**, pil**e**, driv**e** ;; bite -> biet, pile -> piel;

oe :: bon**e**, hol**e**, c**oe** ;; bone -> boen, owe -> oew, old -> oeld;

ue = w :: rul**e**, tub**e** ;; rule -> ruel, tube -> tueb.

However, note that

ye = y+e (not ie);; alien -> aelyen, type -> tiep.

There are, however, many examples when this transliteration does not apply; for example,

love -> luv, move -> mwv, live(verb) -> liv, live(adj.) -> liev.

Consider the pair of words "rid" and "ride" and their present participles "ridding" and "riding". These exhibit an irregularity. We now make the transliterations

rid -> rid and ride -> ried,

so that the transliterated present participles become

ridding -> riding and riding -> rieding.

The transliterations can be seen more consistent than the originals.

c) Other Basic Vowel Sounds:

English is a language that has more vowel sounds than can be represented by the short and long vowels specified above. Consequently, to complete the set of vowel sounds required for English, we define the following:

au :: **au**to, **au**tumn, **a**ll ;; auto -> autoe, all -> aul;

eu :: b**oo**k, c**oo**k, p**u**t, p**u**ll ;; book -> beuk, put -> peut, pull -> peul, pool -> pwl;

e(r) :: h**er**, v**er**b ;; were -> wer, word -> werd (cognate: verb), worm -> werm (cognate: vermin);
Note: this sound which occurs only when "e" is followed by an "r" is indicated by the notation e(r) and is pronounced like the German "oe" in Goethe;

iw = yw :: f**ew**, v**iew** ;; few -> fiw, view -> viw, you->yw;

oi :: **oi**l, b**oi**l;

ou :: **ou**t ;; you -> yw, touch -> tuch.

d) Two-, Three-, and Four-Vowel Strings:

For two-vowel strings that are not a recognizable diphthong, the vowels are pronounced separately. Four-vowel strings can be broken up into two pairs of diphthongs. Thus, for example, the word "aeolian" may be transliterated "aeoelyan".

The basic idea in pronouncing three-vowel strings is that either the first and second vowels form a recognizable diphthong (the usual case) or the second and third vowels do. If both do, then one may have to consult a dictionary to determine the proper pronunciation until one becomes familiar with the word; for example,

oee ;; poet -> poeet (here oee = oe+e rather than o+oe);

iee ;; quiet -> qieet (here iee = ie+e rather than i+ee
and from our subsequent consonant list we let q = kw).

e) Accented and Unaccented Vowels:

The indefinite article "a" sounds like "u" when unaccented, but like "ae" when accented. Similarly, the definite article "the" is pronounced "thu" when unaccented or before a consonant, but "thee" when accented or before a vowel. Thus, write "a" and "the" (or "dhe"–see consonant list) and accept the fact that the pronunciation varies.

f) Vowel Strings Following by an "r":

Other than e(r), vowels and vowel strings followed by a single "r" are pronounced slightly differently, usually shortened, from those followed by some other consonant. While these strings are considered in more detail in Stage 2, for the present we simply define the following:

a(r) = o :: **far** ;; are -> ar.

Vowel strings followed by double "r"s are pronounced in the standard way; for example, "merry".

Basic Consonants

For the ITA (Stage 1) we omit "c" formally except in the letter pair "ch" and use instead "k" or "s" as appropriate since we reserve an alternate use of "c" for Stage 3. Also here we use only the hard "g" and voiceless sibilant ("s" or "ss") and reserve for Stage 3 a discussion of the use of hard and soft "g" ("g" or "j") and voiceless and voiced sibilant "s" ("s" or "z").

With this in mind, we have the following 26 basic consonant sounds as characters or character pairs:

b :: **b**ob, **bh**ang ;; bhang -> bang or bbang;

ch :: **ch**urch, ca**tch**, **c**ello ;; catch -> kach, cello -> chelloe;

d :: **d**ad, **d**id, **d**eed;

dh :: **th**e, **th**en (as distinct from "th", q.v.) ;;
the -> dhe, then -> dhen,
(Note: "dh" is the old English letter "edh");

f :: **f**at, **f**ifty, **ph**one, tou**gh** ;; phone -> foen, tough -> tuf,
of -> ov, off -> auf; (Note: We avoid "ph" = "f".)

g :: **g**o, **g**ag, **gh**ost ;; ghost ->goest;

h :: **h**at, **h**is;

j :: **j**ob, **j**oy;

k :: **k**ick, piq**ue** ;; kick -> kik, pique -> pyk;

l :: **l**et, **l**ily;

m :: **m**om, **m**ay, **m**imic, autu**m**n ;; autumn -> autum;

n :: **n**o, **n**oon, **m**neme ;; mneme -> neemy or nymy;

ng is pronounced as one sound "ng" when terminal or terminal in
root :: **sing**, **bring**, **singer**, **bringing** ;; tongue -> tung;
Note: There are exceptions: finger -> fingger;

ng = n+g when there is a prefix ending with an "n"
::**ing**ather, **ung**ird;

nj = n+j:: hi**ng**e ;; hinge -> hinj, hinging -> hinjing;
angel -> aenjel, engine -> enjin;

ny = n+y :: can**y**on, pin**i**on, poi**gn**ant ;; pinion -> pinyun,
poignänt -> poinyant;

p :: **p**op, **p**aper;

q = kw :: **qu**ick ;; quick -> qik, squat-> sqat; quantum -> qontum;

r :: **r**at, **r**oar, **r**hyme, **wr**ite ;; rhyme -> riem, write -> riet;

s :: **s**ister, **sc**ene, **ps**yche ;; psyche -> sieky or siyky (Stage 2);

sh :: **sh**ip, fi**sh**, su**re**, men**ti**on, **ch**amois ;; sure-> shuer,
(Note: we avoid "sch" as distinct from "sh" ;;
schism -> sizm, scheme -> skeem);

t :: **t**o, **t**ot, **th**yme, **pt**omaine ;; to -> tw, ptomaine -> toemaen,
thyme -> tiem or tiym (Stage 2);

th :: **th**in, **th**ick (as distinct from "dh", q.v.),
(Note: "th" is the Old English letter "thorn");

v :: **v**ivid, o**f**, Ste**ph**en ;; of -> ov;

w :: **w**ow, **w**ith, **wh**en ;; who -> hw, when -> wen,
(Note: we do not distinguish between "w" and "wh");

x = ks :: bo**x**, ne**x**t, a**x**le,
but pronunciation may slur into "gs" :: e**x**it, lu**x**ury;
(Note: Plurals ending in "ks" are not written with "x");

y :: **y**es, tortil**l**a, hallelu**j**ah;

z :: **z**oo, hi**s**, de**s**ert, de**ss**ert;

zh :: a**z**ure, vi**si**on ;; azure -> azhuer, vision -> vizhun.

We try to avoid silent consonants, so that although we write "autumn -> autum", we can still write "autumnal". For words with silent consonants that need to be distinguished, we can use a double consonant. Thus, if we want to distinguish "not" and "knot", we can write the transliterations "not -> not" and "knot -> nnot or nott". Double consonants may be avoided unless they serve a purpose. Thus, we

can write "will -> wil or will". For a word with a one syllable root, the final consonant of the root word is frequently doubled.

Silent "e"'s can be omitted, so that we can write "little -> littl" and "used -> ywzd" where here the "ed" suffix has been shortened to simply "d".

Proper nouns *may* keep their current spellings.

Using the new ITA (Stage 1), we can write the *Abstract* of this paper as follows:

"Dhe kurrent spelling ov werdz in Inglish iz soe laking in konsistensy dhat dhe tiem iz riep for dhe adoptshun ov an alfubet dhat embodyz sum semblans ov foenetiks. A nw alfubet for Inglish iz propoezd dhat ywzez dhe Inglish (Roeman) letterz soe dhat kurrent tiep and tieprieterz kan stil by ywzd. Ferdhermoer, and perhaps moer impaurtant, allouwans iz maed tw distingwish dhe graet number ov homonimz dhat okker in dhe Inglish langgwij.

Dhe nw alfubet iz pryzented in faur staejez, starting with an Inishul Teeching Alfubet, dhen adding suksesivly aulternativ vouwelz, konsonant modifikaeshunz, and fienally speshal letter stringz."

STAGE 2: THE ITA WITH ALTERNATE VOWELS

Here we build on Stage 1 by adding alternative vowel forms and other vowel representations. We do this to allow for the potential distinguishing of homonyms and to retain the look or spelling of current English as much as possible.

Vowels Strings Followed by an "r"

First compare the pronunciation of vowels followed by a single "r" with the pronunciation of same vowels followed by some other consonant as in the following pairs of words:

pare, pale; air, aid; peer, peel; ire, ile; ore, ode; lure, lute.

Comparing the pronunciation of these word pairs and noting that as before we use transliterations of the form "pare -> paer", one finds that the words with vowel strings ending with an "r" are pronounced with a somewhat modified vowel sound, usually shortened. Rather than use a special character or character string to represent this modified sound as in the Shavian alphabet or try to approximate it with the Stage 1 ITA, here we simply indicate this modified sound by the presence of a training "r".

Also considering such words as "her, fir, fur, far, for" and denoting a trailing "r" by (r), we are lead to define

a(r) = o :: far ;; are -> ar;

e(r) = i(r), u(r) :: her, verb, fir, dirt, fur, hurt
;; were -> wer, word -> werd, worm -> werm;

o(r) = oe(r), au ;; or -> or, more -> mor, your -> yor,
door -> dor, for -> for, four -> faur, fore -> foer;

Furthermore, we have

ae(r) = ai(r), ei(r) :: air, their ;; pare -> paer,
wear -> waer, where -> weir, there -> dhaer;

ea(r) :: ear, hear ;; wear -> waer;

ee(r) :: peer ;; tear(cry) -> teer;

ie(r) ;; ire -> ier;

oo(r) :: poor;

ue(r) ;; lure ->luer.

We restore the original pronunciation of the vowels by using double trailing "r"s:

:: arrow, merry, mirror, sorry, current ;; err -> er.

Vowel Strings Followed by an "h"

Vowel strings ending in "gh" may be replaced for the most part by alternative vowel strings ending in "h", as follows:

ah = o ;; laugh -> laf or lahf (depending upon pronunciation);

auh = au ;; caught -> cauht or caut, ought-> auht;

eh = ae ;; weigh -> weh;

ih = ie ;; night -> niht, high -> hih,
I -> Ih (cognate to the German "Ich");

oh = oe ;; though -> dhoh;

ouh = ou ;; bough -> bouh;

uh = u ;; rough -> ruhf or ruf;

wh = w ;; through -> thrwh or thrw.

Alternative Vowel Strings

We now present a complete list of alternative vowels and vowel strings including vowel strings ending with "h", "y", "w", and (r). Vowel strings ending with "i" or "u" are usually medial while those ending with "y" or "w" are usually terminal, as in the following:

"daily, day", "out, how".

On the other hand used initially, "y" and "w" are usually consonants.

a (no alternative) :: an, at;

e (no alternative) :: **e**nd, b**e**d;

i (no alternative) :: **i**n, **i**t;

o = aa, ah, a(r) :: **o**n, **ah**, f**a**r ;; are -> ar, father -> fodher;

u = uh :: **u**p, h**uh** ;; mother -> mudher, rough -> ruhf or ruf;

w = ue, wh :: c**wm**, bl**ue** ;; to-> tw, too -> tue, two -> twh,
you -> yw, ewe ->iw, yew -> yiw, through -> thrwh or thrw,
new -> nw, why -> wiy, neuter -> nwter, fruit -> frwt;

ae = ai, ay, ei, ey, eh :: G**ae**l, d**ai**ly, d**ay**, v**ei**n, pr**ey**;

ae(r) = ai(r), ei(r) :: **air**, th**eir** ;; pare -> paer,
tear(rip) -> taer, there -> dhaer, their -> dheir;

au = aw, auh, o(r), oe(r) :: **au**to, s**aw**, **or** ;; more -> mor,
ore -> oer, your -> yor, warm -> worm, worm -> werm;

ea(r) :: **ear**, h**ear** ;; wear -> waer;

ee = y, ea :: s**ee**, …l**y**, s**ea** ;; we -> wy, people -> pypl;

e(r) = i(r), u(r) :: h**er**, f**ir**, f**ur** ;; were -> wer, word -> werd;

ee(r) :: p**eer**;

eu = oo :: b**oo**k, w**oo**d, p**u**ll ;; wood -> wood, would -> weud,
pool -> pwl, pull -> peul, put -> peut;

ie = ii, iy, ih :: d**ie** ;; dye -> diy, night -> niht, high -> hih,
I -> Ih, my -> miy, thyme -> tiym, align -> aliyn;

ie(r) ;; ire -> ier;

iw = iu, yw ;; few -> fiw, view -> viw, feud->fiud, fuel->fiul;

oe = oa, oew, oh :: t**oe**, b**oa**t ;; low -> loew, row -> roew,
so -> soh, sew -> soe, sow -> soew, though -> dhoh;

oi = oy, oiy :: b**oi**l, b**oy** ;; buoy -> boiy or bwy (depending upon
how it is pronounced);

oo(r) :: p**oo**r;

ou = ow, ouh :: **ou**r, **ou**t, h**ow** ;; low -> loew, your -> yor,
bough -> bouh, down -> down or doun (since "ou" is medial);

ue(r) ;; lure -> luer.

Thus, here we have 22 basic vowel sounds with an additional 33 alternative vowel strings for these vowels. Note that if we let "V" be any of the vowels "a", "i", or "o", then we can write "Vi = Vy" and "Vu = Vw" where the Vy and Vw forms are usually terminal. Where several vowel strings are possible, in general the shorter is to be preferred.

Unaccented Vowels

There are many pronunciation rules in English that are honored more in their breech than in their use and so we avoid them except as

noted. We must observe, however, that in unaccented syllables the vowels "a" and "o" are frequently shortened or slurred to "u". While proper names would not normally be transliterated, it is unlikely that "America" would be tranliterated "Umerricu", although "Amerrica" seems reasonable. The vowels "e" and "i" in unaccented syllables are frequently shortened or slurred a bit. Since we are not concerned here with a purely phonetic alphabet but rather one that can conveniently be adapted to everyday English, this shortening or slurring of vowels can be accepted into Stage 2 modifications.

Using the Stage 2 version of the new alphabet and retaining the current spelling of proper nouns, we can write the *Abstract* of this paper as follows:

"Dhe kurrent spelling of werds in English iz soh laking in konsistensy dhat dhe tiem iz riep for dhe adopshon ov an alfubet dhat embodyz sum semblans ov foenetiks. A nw alfubet iz propoezd dhat ywzez dhe English (Roman) letterz soh dhat kurrent tiyp and tiyprieterz kan still by ywzd. Furdhermor, and perhaps mor important, allowans iz maed tw distingwish dhe graet number ov homonimz dhat okkur in dhe English langgwij.

Dhe nw alfubet iz pryzented in faur staejez, starting with an Inishal Teaching Alfubet, and adding suksesivly aulternativ vowelz, konsonant modifikaeshunz, and fienally speshal letter stringz."

STAGE 3: STAGE 2 WITH CONSONANT MODIFICATIONS

One of the features of the new alphabet is an attempt to preserve as much as possible current spellings. To do this we modify the way we use the consonants "c", "g", and "s" and follow for the most part rules usually used in current English—except that we use them consistently. These rules are used in varying degrees in the European languages from which English is derived. Furthermore, these modifications add flexibility to the ability to distinguish homonyms in addition to the alternate vowels of Stage 2.

"c": "c" has two sounds, "k" and "s", defined as follows:

c = s followed by a short vowel sound ("e", "i", "y")
:: cent, city, cycle ;; scene -> ceen, cieling -> ceeling;

ce = s when terminal :: hence, fence, ;; face -> faece;

c = k otherwise :: can, come, cut, cwm, act, magic, scar
;; cute -> kiut, school -> scwl, pick -> pik,

(Note: "k" insures "k" sound, so that "ck" is not necessary);

"g": "g" in current English has two sounds g(hard) and g(soft). We now let "g" be g(hard) and "j" be g(soft), as in Stage 1:

g(hard) = g :: **g**ag, **g**et, **g**ive, **g**o, **g**ut, **g**lad, **gh**ost ;; ghost -> gohst, guilt -> gilt, bigger -> biger;

g(soft) = j ;; gent -> jent, age -> aej, gyro -> jyroe;

(Note: We avoid varying the pronunciation depending upon whether "g" is followed by a soft or hard vowel and have no need of "gg" to insure the g(hard) sound ;; bigger -> biger.)

"s": "s" in current English has two sounds, "s" and "z". The plural of many nouns is formed from the singular by adding an "s". Similarly, the third person singular of many verbs is formed from the first person singular by adding an "s". However, in each of these cases this terminal "s" is pronounced as an "s" or "z" depending on which *sounds* more "natural." Rather than write "s" (or "z") with two *sounds*, instead we spell the word with an "s" or a "z" depending on which *sound* is required. Furthermore, we avoid pronouncing an "s" between two vowels as a "z". Thus, we define "s" as in Stage 1:

s = s in all cases :: **s**at, **s**ee, **s**it, **s**o, **s**um, **s**ister, pa**s**t ;; is -> iz, hers -> herz, this -> dhis, pits -> pits, pins -> pinz, slaps -> slaps, uses -> ywzez, desert -> dezert, dessert -> dezzert, risen -> rizen, science -> siyens or sciyens, resent(to be indignant at) -> ryzent, resent(past tense of resend) -> rysent;

ss insures "s" sound :: hi**ss**, mi**ss** ;; hiss -> his or hiss, lease -> leas, please -> pleaz, tease -> tyz to offset it from teaz and teez (both plurals here have the "z" sound).

In current English an initial "x" is pronounced as a "z". Here we do <u>not</u> follow this rule, but use instead an initial "z", so that xerox -> zerox and so forth.

The past tense when currently indicated by "ed" is now indicated by "ed" when the "e" is pronounced as in "seated" and simply by "d" when the "e" would not have been pronounced so that rubbed -> rubd.

The alternate vowels of Stage 2 and consonant modification of Stage 3 rules may seem a bit complicated; however, they are simply the

usual rules of current English stated explicitly, simplified a bit and used consistently.

As with Stage 2, we can now write the *Abstract* of this paper in the Stage 3 version of the new alphabet:

"Dhe current spelling of werdz in English iz soh laking in consistency dhat dhe tiem iz riep for dhe adopshun ov an alfubet dhat embodyz sum semblance ov foenetics. A nw alfubet is propoezd dhat ywzez dhe English (Roman) letterz soh dhat current tiyp and tiyprieterz can still by ywzd. Furthermor, and perhaps mor important, allowance is maed tw distingwish dhe graet number of homonimz dhat occur in dhe English langgwij.

Dhe nw alfubet is pryzented in faur staejez, starting with an Inishal Teaching Alfubet, dhen adding succesivly aulternativ vowelz, consonant modificashunz, and fienally speshal letter strinzs."

STAGE 4: STAGE 3 WITH SPECIAL LETTER STRINGS

In current English the letter pairs "ci", "si", and "ti" are frequently pronounced "sh"; for example, "spe**ci**al", "ini**ti**al", "ten**si**on" and "ac**ti**on". Thus, it is seems reasonable to assign to "…cial" and "tial" the sound "shul" where the "a" is slurred a bit to "u", so that "facial -> faecial". We also assign to "…sion" and "…tion" the sound "…shun" where the "o" is slurred a bit to "u", so that "adaption -> adaption".

Other special letter strings are possible; however, at this time such considerations are probably a bit premature.

Using the Stage 4 version of the new alphabet with the foregoing special letter strings and a bit of slurring of certain vowels, we can write the *Abstract* of this paper:

"Dhe current spelling of werdz in English is soh laking in consistency dhat dhe tiem is riep for dhe adoption ov an alfabet dhat embodyz sum semblance ov foeneticz. A nw alfabet for English is propoezd dhat ywzez dhe English (Roman) letterz soh dhat current tiyp and tiyprieterz can still by ywzd. Furthermor, and perhaps mor important, allowance is maed tw distingwish dhe graet number ov homonimz dhat occur in dhe Inglish langgwij.

Dhe nw alfabet is pryzented in faur staejez, starting with an Initial Teaching Alfabet, dhen adding succesivly aulternativ vowelz, consonant modificaetion, and fienally special letter stringz."

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The present study, rather than being the final result, represents an exploratory investigation into the development of a rationalization of the spelling of the English language. Many modifications are possible, but the given rules represent for the most part current usage applied consistently.

It is hardly expected that this new alphabet will be accepted summarily. Hopefully, it will not be rejected summarily. This new alphabet need not be adapted completely, but may be adapted after any particular stage or with the partial adaption of a stage. It takes time to become used to anything new, regardless of its merits. If the spelling of English is ever to be rationalized, someone must make a start as we have attempted here, however quixotic this may be perceived.

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